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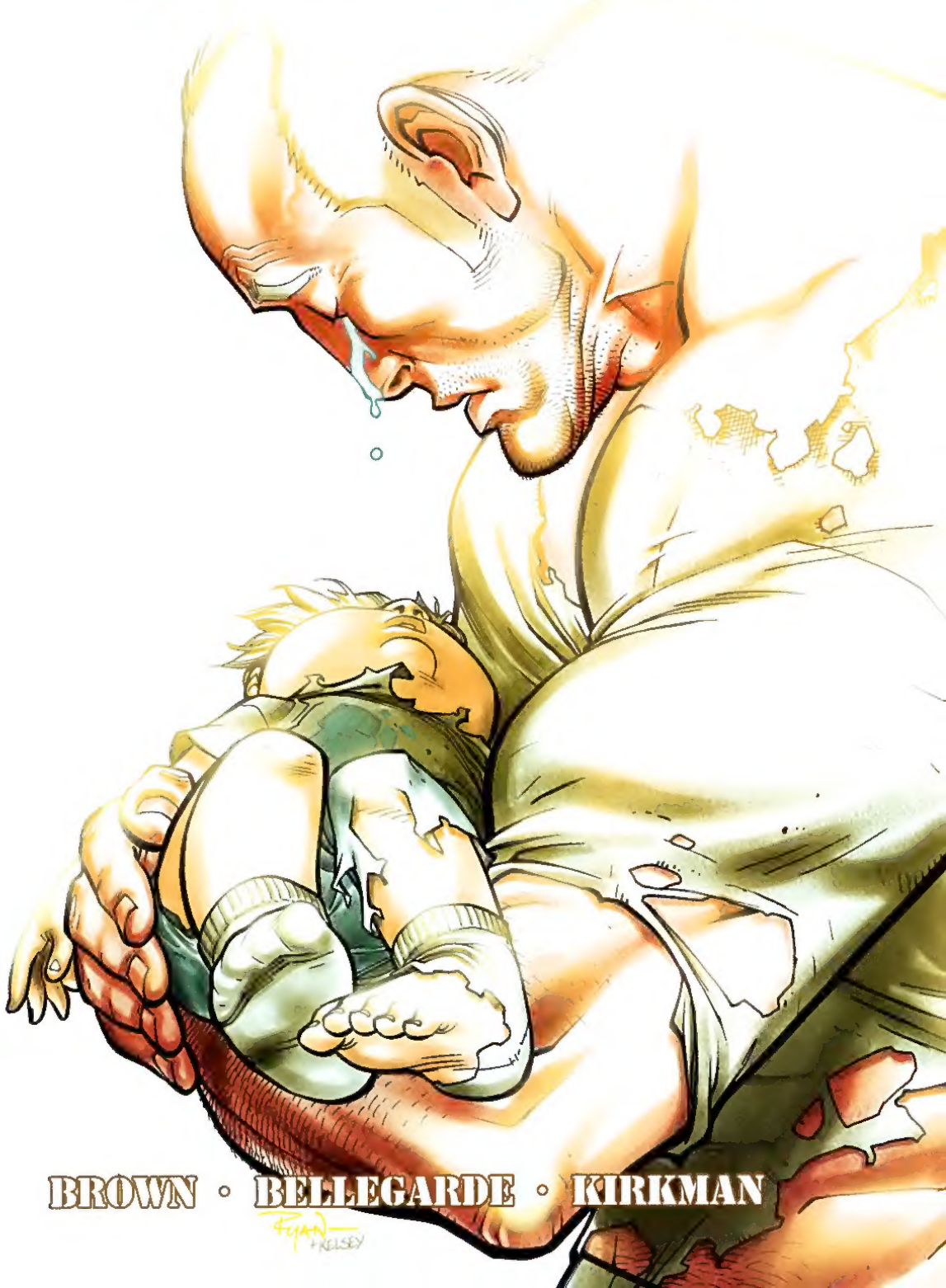
BRIT



BROWN • BELLEGARDE • KIRKMAN

BRIT

writers
BRUCE BROWN, ROBERT KIRKMAN
penciler, inker
NATE BELLEGARDE
colorist
VAL STAPLES
letterer
RUS WOOTON

ORIGIN STORY
writer
ROBERT KIRKMAN
penciler
NATE BELLEGARDE
inker
CLIFF RATHBURN
colorist
VAL STAPLES
letterer
RUS WOOTON

cover
RYAN OTTLEY & KELSEY SHANNON
editor
AUBREY SITTERSON
story editor, creator
ROBERT KIRKMAN

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Allen Hui - production manager
Drew Gill - production artist
Jonathan Chan - production artist
Monica Howard - production artist

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International Rights Representative: CHRISTINE JENSEN (christine@gilroystudio.com)

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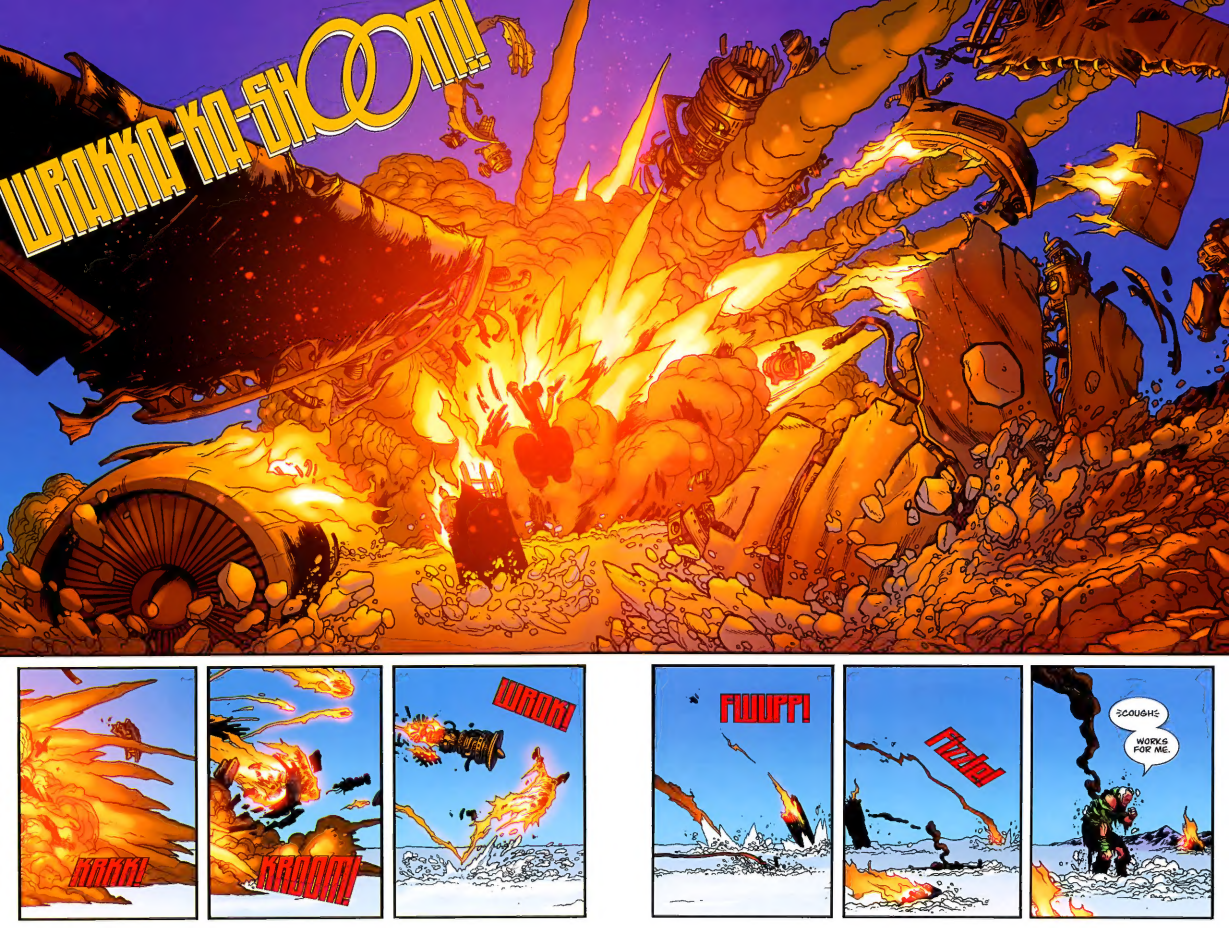
GET OFF--!
PAY ATTENTION, DEAR BROTHER. THOSE ARE THE COORDINATES, I WILL NOT REPEAT THEM. COME ALONE. NO GADGETS. NO WEAPONS. NO TELEPORTATION.
I'LL BE WATCHING.
BE THERE IN EXACTLY TWO HOURS OR THE BOY DIES.
BLUA-BOOM!!

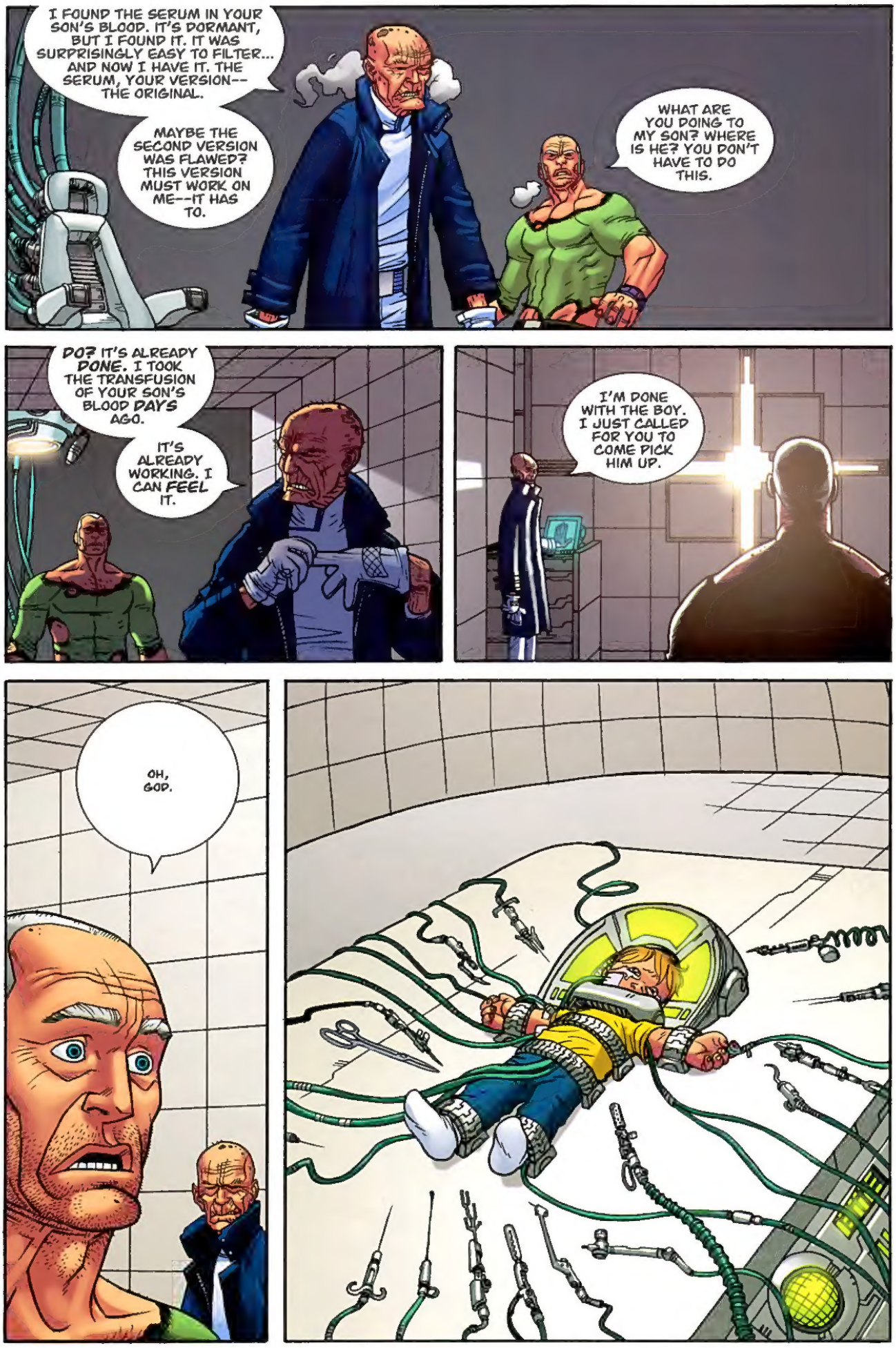
I CAN'T TAKE THIS... I CAN'T...
I JUST CAN'T...
BRIT!
KROOM!
WHAT THE HELL?
MY BABY.
MY BABY.
MY BABY.
JESSICA...
JESSICA, I'M HERE.
FIND OUR BOY-- FIND HIM.
THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
CECIL, I NEED A PLANE.

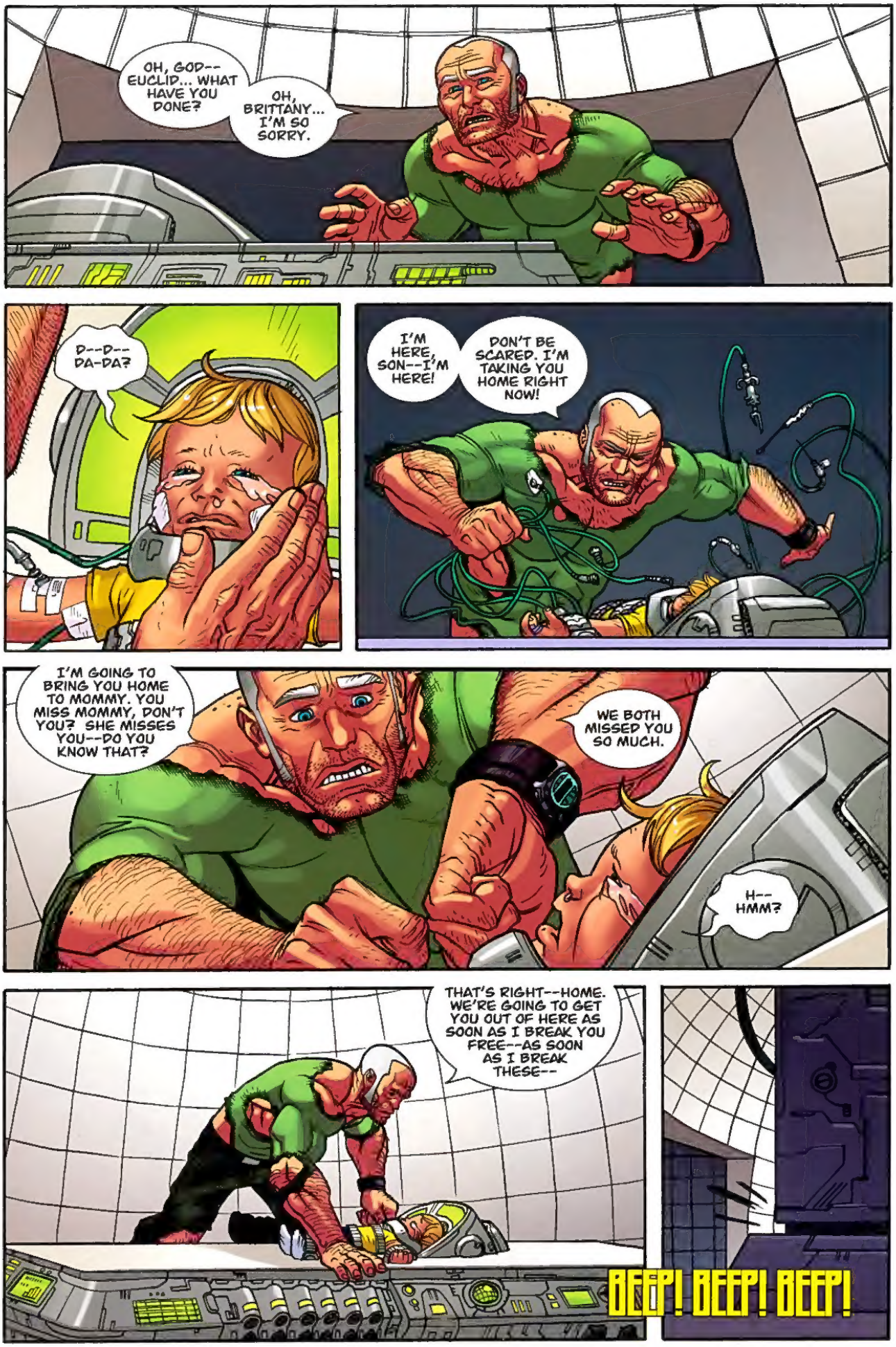
"CUTTING THIS CLOSE..."
TWO MINUTES, DONALD. DIDN'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING FASTER?
YOU'RE FLYING THE ONLY THING WE HAD THAT COULD'VE GOTTEN YOU TO THAT LOCATION IN TWO HOURS. YOUR BROTHER'S PLANNED FOR EVERY ANGLE OF THIS THING.
NO TIME TO DITCH.
NO TIME TO LAND.
>SIGH<
VOOOOOSSSH!

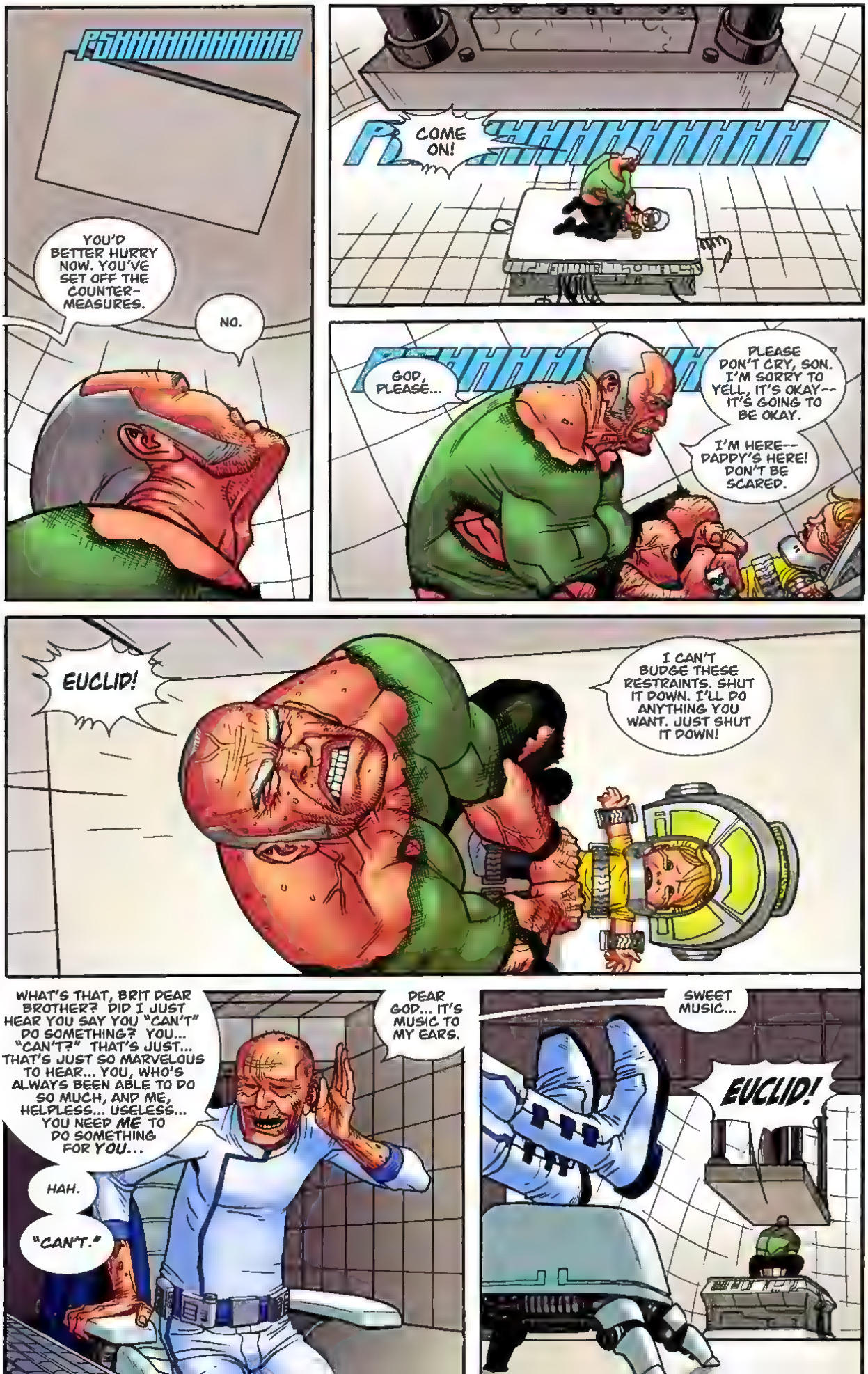

WRAKKQ-KQ-SHOOOM!!!
KAKK!
KRAOOM!
WROOK!
FWURP!
FWUP!
SCOUGHS
WORKS FOR ME.

THESE ARE THE EXACT COORDINATES.
I'M HERE, GOD DAMMIT!
WHERE'S MY SON?!
RUUUUUMMBLE!
CRAAACK!

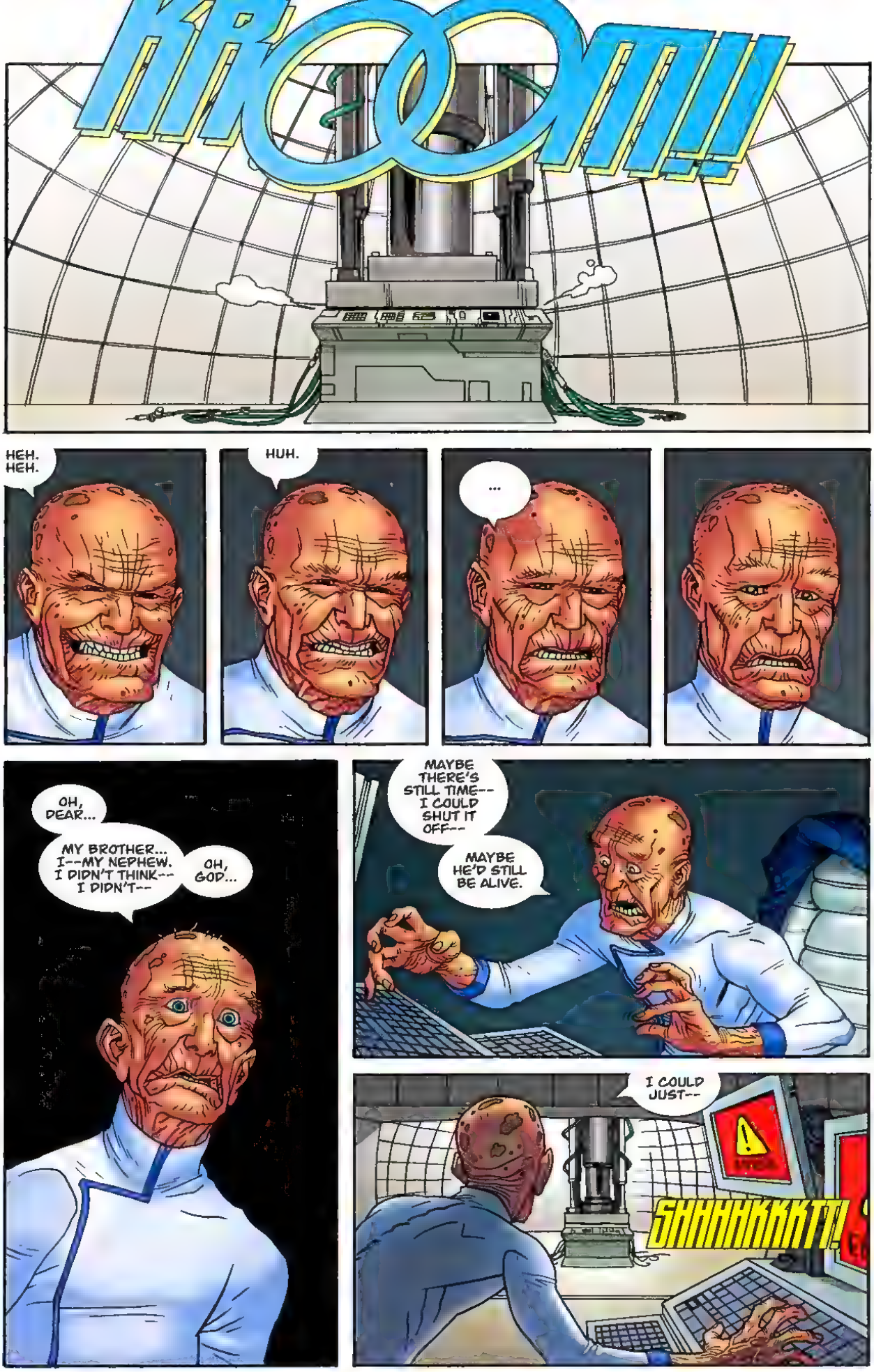
KRSSSH!!
HUH.
YOU SHOULD'VE LANDED THREE FEET TO THE LEFT. I MUST BE DISTRACTED.
HELLO, BROTHER.
HELLO, EUCLID.
GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT. I WANTED A WITNESS TO THIS PARTICULAR PAGE IN HISTORY. I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY FATHER COULDN'T MAKE IT WORK ON ME, BUT I'M CORRECTING THAT LAPSE IN EXPERTISE.
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
YOU IDIOT, THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT!
I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES. DAD GAVE YOU AND BRITNEY THE SAME SERUM, AN IMPROVED VERSION OF WHAT HE GAVE ME YEARS BEFORE. IT'S NOT HIS FAULT IT DIDN'T WORK ON YOU!
I DON'T ACCEPT THAT! BRITNEY HAS POWER. YOU HAVE POWER. I HAVE NOTHING. IN WHAT RIGHT AND PROPER WORLD SHOULD YOU HAVE THE GIFTS OF A GOD AND I END UP... LIKE THIS?!
GIFT? IF I COULD GIVE IT, YOU COULD HAVE IT. AND DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WALKED AWAY WITH NOTHING, EUCLID. YOU'VE LIVED A LONG TIME.
IT'S NOT ENOUGH. BUT I'VE SOLVED THAT PUZZLE. SOON, ALL WILL BE RIGHT IN THE WORLD.

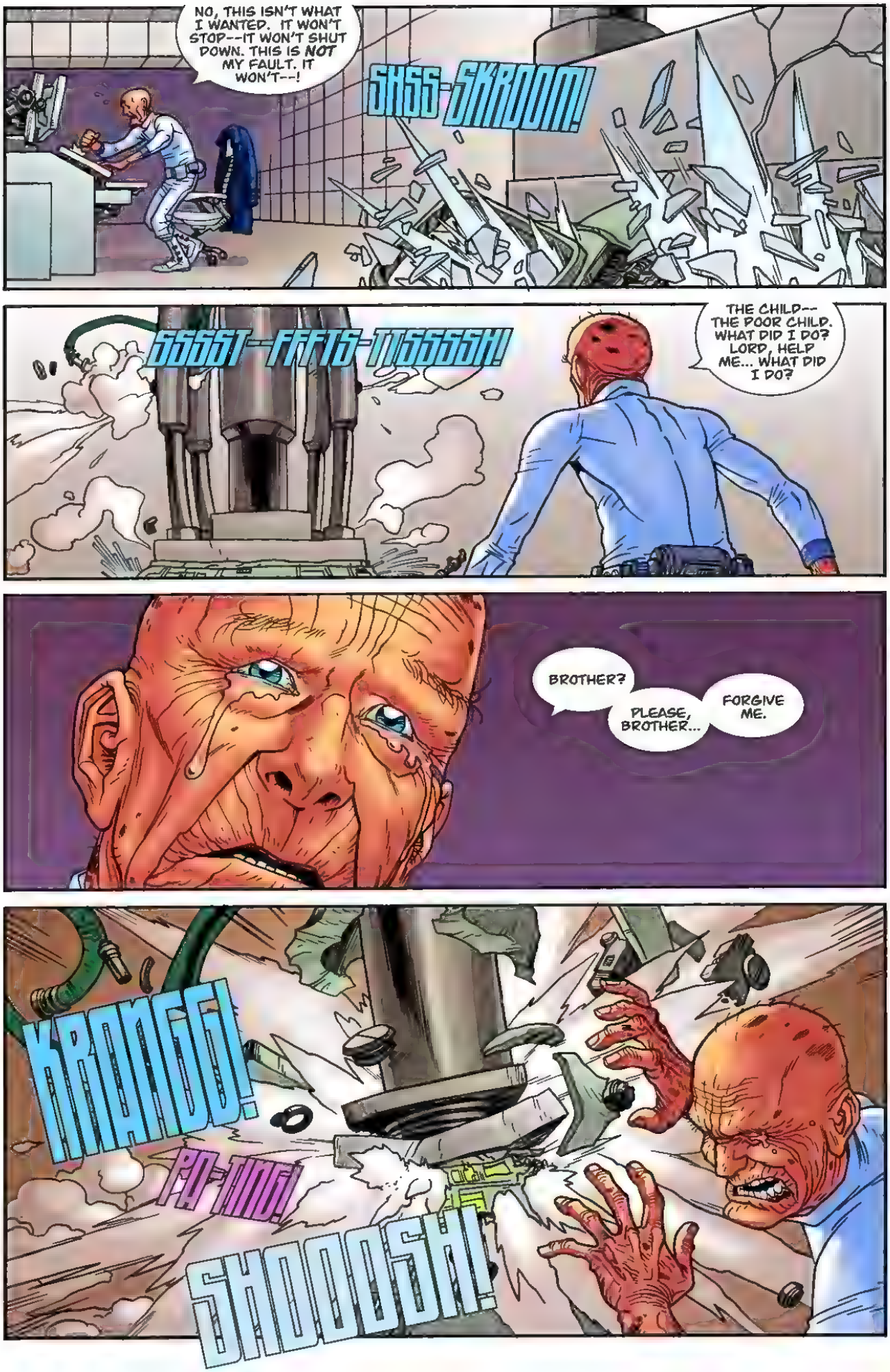

I FOUND THE SERUM IN YOUR SON'S BLOOD. IT'S DORMANT, BUT I FOUND IT. IT WAS SURPRISINGLY EASY TO FILTER... AND NOW I HAVE IT. THE SERUM, YOUR VERSION-- THE ORIGINAL.
MAYBE THE SECOND VERSION WAS FLAWED? THIS VERSION MUST WORK ON ME--IT HAS TO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY SON? WHERE IS HE? YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
DO? IT'S ALREADY DONE. I TOOK THE TRANSFUSION OF YOUR SON'S BLOOD DAYS AGO.
IT'S ALREADY WORKING. I CAN FEEL IT.
I'M DONE WITH THE BOY. I JUST CALLED FOR YOU TO COME PICK HIM UP.
OH, GOD.


OH, GOD-- EUCLID... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
OH, BRITTANY... I'M SO SORRY.
D--D-- DA-DA?
I'M HERE, SON--I'M HERE!
DON'T BE SCARED. I'M TAKING YOU HOME RIGHT NOW!
I'M GOING TO BRING YOU HOME TO MOMMY. YOU MISS MOMMY, DON'T YOU? SHE MISSES YOU--DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WE BOTH MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
H-- HMM?
THAT'S RIGHT--HOME. WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS I BREAK YOU FREE--AS SOON AS I BREAK THESE--
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!


FSHHHHHHHHHHH!
YOU'D BETTER HURRY NOW. YOU'VE SET OFF THE COUNTER-MEASURES.
NO.
COME ON!
PHHHHHHHHH!
GOD, PLEASE...
PLEASE DON'T CRY, SON. I'M SORRY TO YELL, IT'S OKAY-- IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
I'M HERE-- DADDY'S HERE! DON'T BE SCARED.
EUCLID!
I CAN'T BUDGE THESE RESTRAINTS. SHUT IT DOWN. I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT. JUST SHUT IT DOWN!
WHAT'S THAT, BRIT DEAR BROTHER? DID I JUST HEAR YOU SAY YOU "CAN'T" DO SOMETHING? YOU... "CAN'T?" THAT'S JUST... THAT'S JUST SO MARVELOUS TO HEAR... YOU, WHO'S ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO DO SO MUCH, AND ME, HELPLESS... USELESS... YOU NEED ME TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU...
HAH.
"CAN'T."
DEAR GOD... IT'S MUSIC TO MY EARS.
SWEET MUSIC...
EUCLID!

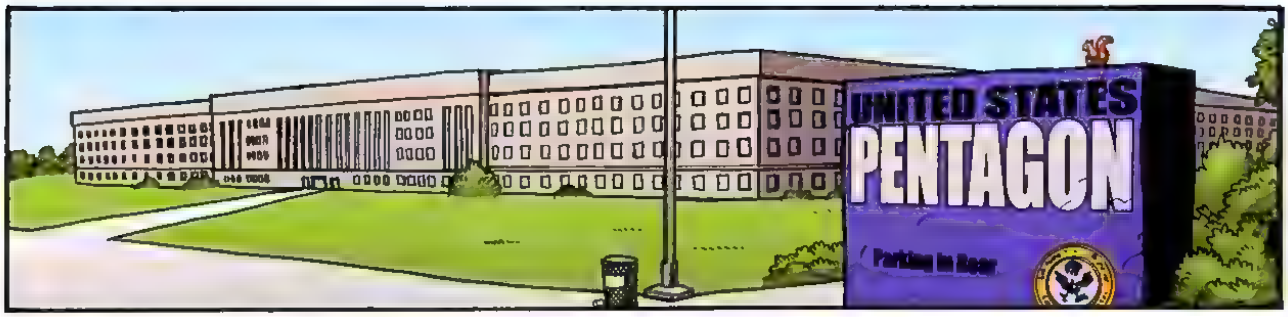
OH, GOD-- NO.
NO.
NO.
NO.
I CAN'T STOP IT-- I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH! GOD HELP ME, I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH!
DAMN YOU, EUCLID!
I WON'T LEAVE YOU, SON. I'M RIGHT HERE. I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU--
SOMEONE PLEASE HELP ME.
SOMEONE PLEASE HELP ME!
HEY, LOOK AT ME. MY BABY BOY. I'M SORRY.
I'M SO SORRY. LOOK AT ME. I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.
I LOVE YOU, SON. YOU'RE EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED.
YOU'RE PERFECT AND-- YOU--
DADDY'S HERE, OKAY-- EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
DADDY'S HERE.

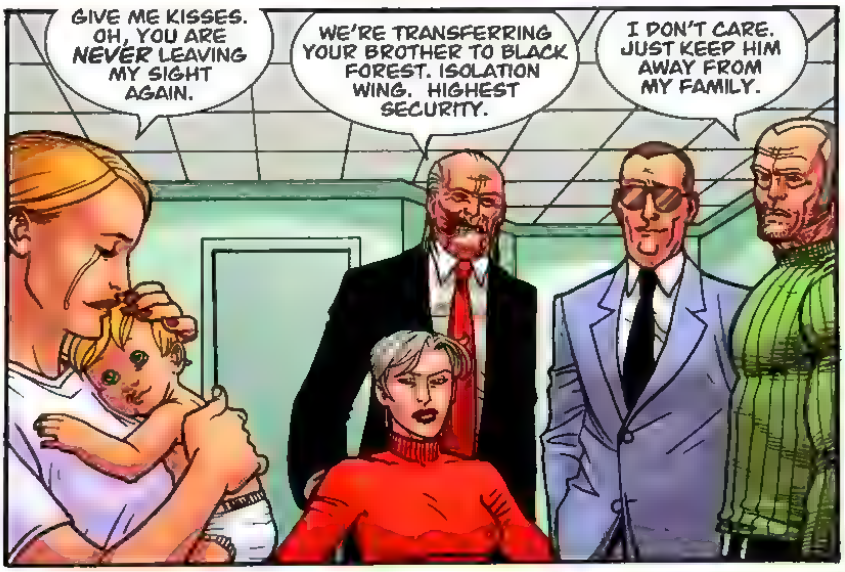

KRAAM!!
HEH. HEH.
HUH.
...
OH, DEAR...
MY BROTHER... I--MY NEPHEW. I DIDN'T THINK-- I DIDN'T--
OH, GOD...
MAYBE THERE'S STILL TIME-- I COULD SHUT IT OFF--
MAYBE HE'D STILL BE ALIVE.
I COULD JUST--
SHHHHKKKT!

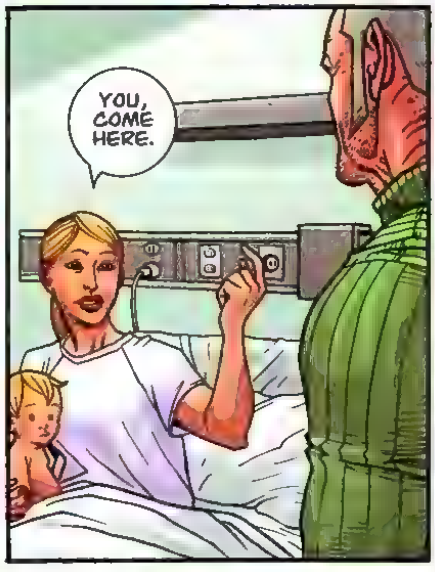

NO, THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED. IT WON'T STOP--IT WON'T SHUT DOWN. THIS IS NOT MY FAULT. IT WON'T--!
SHSS-SKROOM!
SSSSST--FFFTS-TTSSSSH!
THE CHILD--THE POOR CHILD. WHAT DID I DO? LORD, HELP ME... WHAT DID I DO?
BROTHER?
PLEASE, BROTHER...
FORGIVE ME.
KRAAGG!
PO-TING!
SHOOOSH!

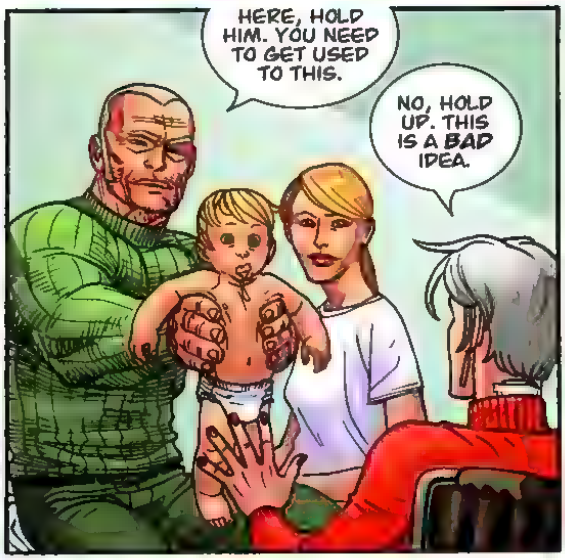
NOT LIKELY.

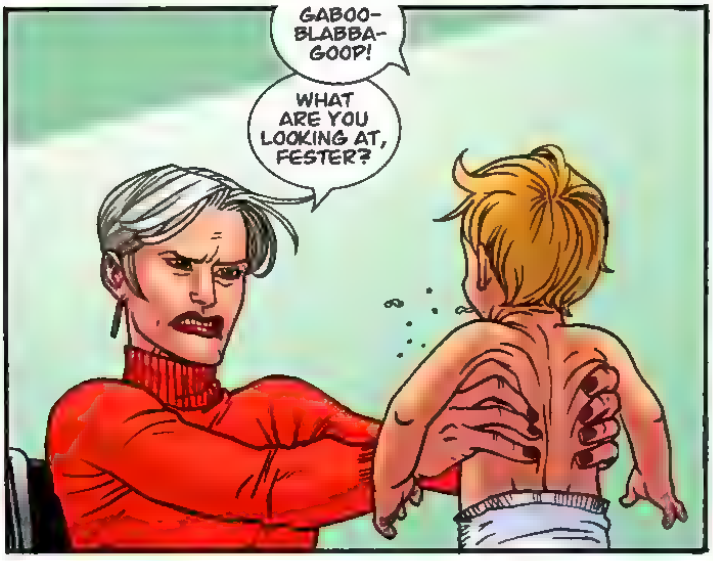
THE BOY'S FINE? HE'S ALL RIGHT?
YEP, GOOD AS NEW.
GEE!
BETTER EVEN.
WROKK!
LET'S CALL UNCLE DONALD AND GET OUT OF HERE. YOUR MOTHER IS GOING TO BE BESIDE HERSELF WHEN SHE SEES YOU.
BOOGY.

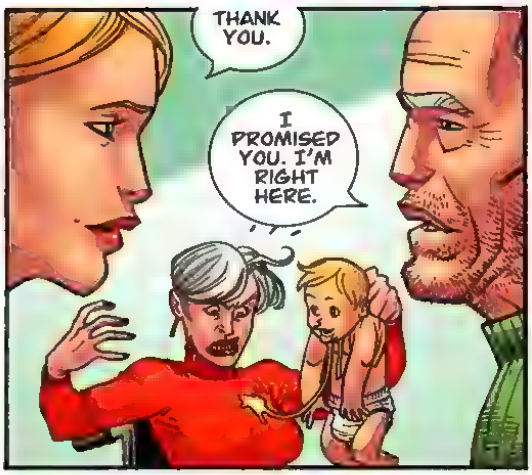

UNITED STATES
PENTAGON
Parking in Rear

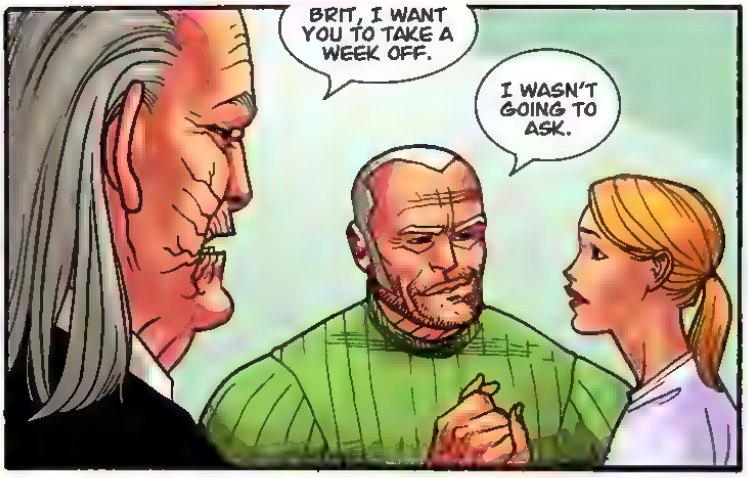

GIVE ME KISSES. OH, YOU ARE NEVER LEAVING MY SIGHT AGAIN.
WE'RE TRANSFERRING YOUR BROTHER TO BLACK FOREST. ISOLATION WING. HIGHEST SECURITY.
I DON'T CARE. JUST KEEP HIM AWAY FROM MY FAMILY.

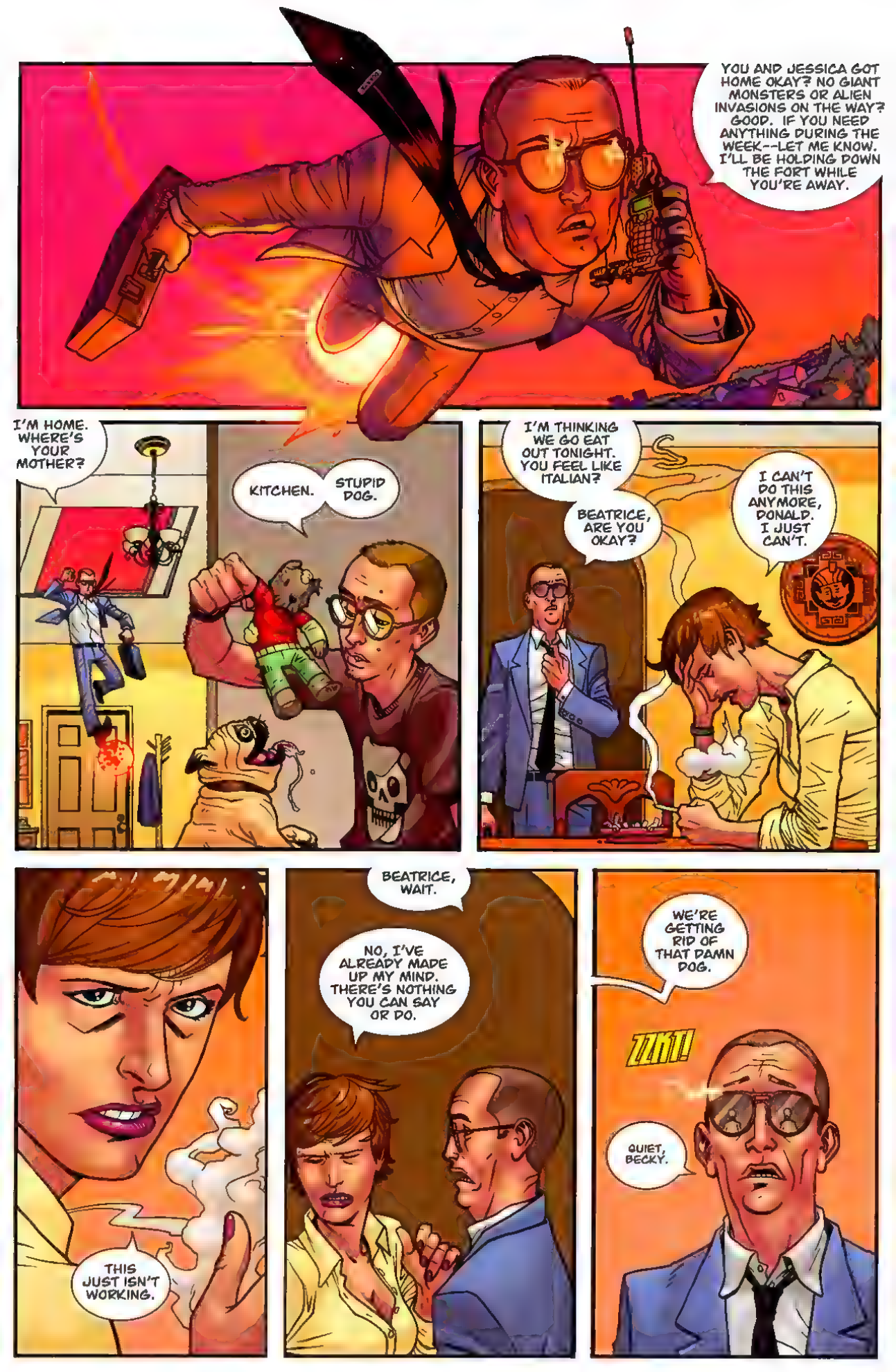

YOU, COME HERE.


HERE, HOLD HIM. YOU NEED TO GET USED TO THIS.
NO, HOLD UP. THIS IS A BAD IDEA.


GABOO-BLABBA-GOOP!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, FESTER?


THANK YOU.
I PROMISED YOU. I'M RIGHT HERE.

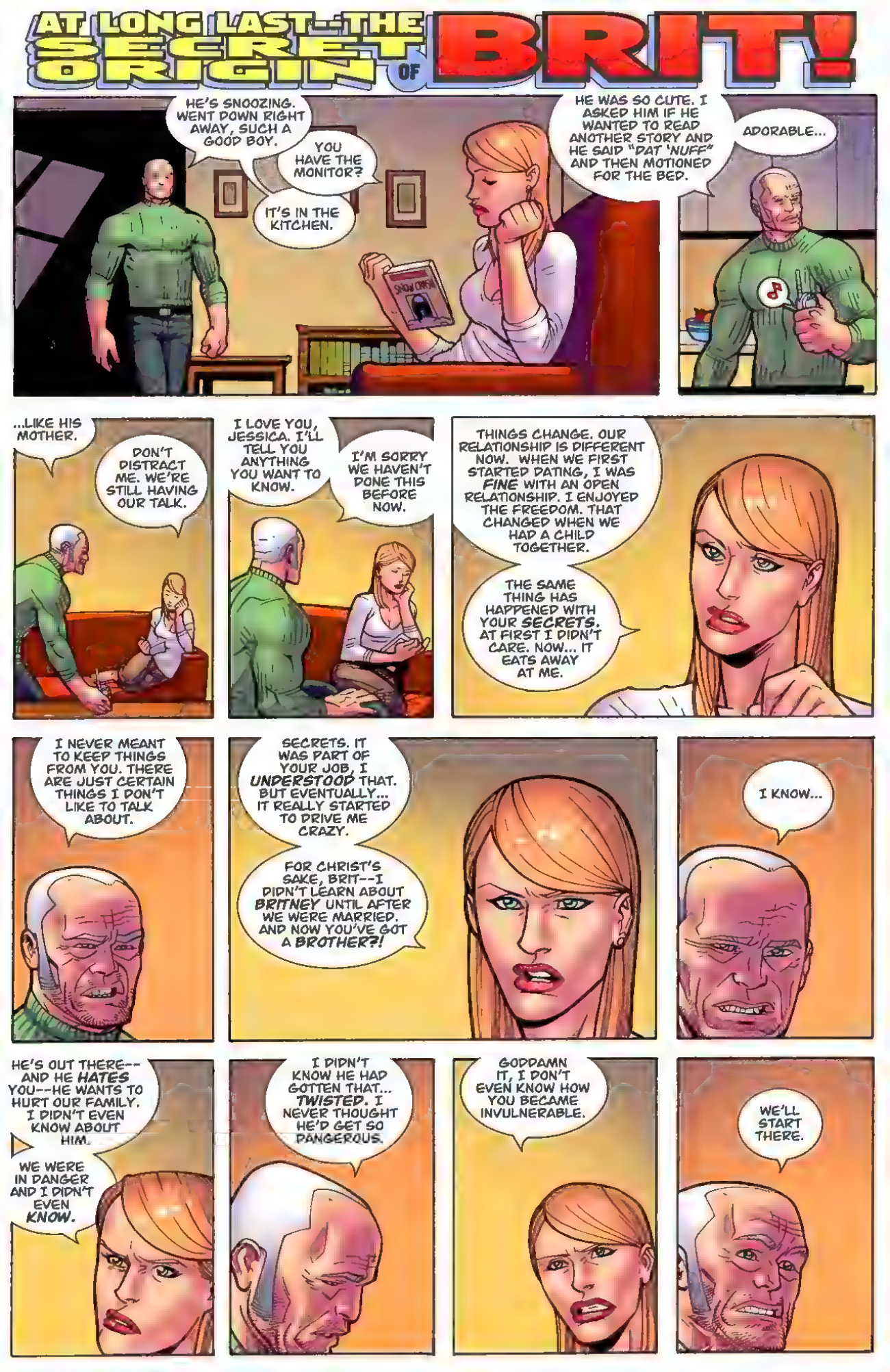

BRIT, I WANT YOU TO TAKE A WEEK OFF.
I WASN'T GOING TO ASK.


YOU AND JESSICA GOT HOME OKAY? NO GIANT MONSTERS OR ALIEN INVASIONS ON THE WAY? GOOD. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING DURING THE WEEK--LET ME KNOW. I'LL BE HOLDING DOWN THE FORT WHILE YOU'RE AWAY.
I'M HOME. WHERE'S YOUR MOTHER?
KITCHEN.
STUPID DOG.
I'M THINKING WE GO EAT OUT TONIGHT. YOU FEEL LIKE ITALIAN?
BEATRICE, ARE YOU OKAY?
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE, DONALD. I JUST CAN'T.
THIS JUST ISN'T WORKING.
BEATRICE, WAIT.
NO, I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY OR DO.
WE'RE GETTING RID OF THAT DAMN DOG.
ZIKT!
QUIET, BECKY.

HEH, LOOK AT YOU. YOU GOTTA GRIP LIKE A LOBSTER.
DING! DING!
DINNER'S READY.
THAT WAS FAST.
REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU TIP.
Dr Pepper
PIZZA GUY WAS KIND OF A JERK.
JESSICA...
I CAN MAKE THIS WORK--THINGS CAN BE LESS CRAZY... LIKE WHEN WE WERE DATING. YOU'LL SEE.
I KNOW. I THINK YOU CAN--I'M WILLING TO WORK IT OUT.
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, TOO...

...BUT WHEN EXACTLY WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EVIL BROTHER? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU HAD A BROTHER!
I'M SORRY. THERE'S A LOT TO TELL... AND I THINK I'M READY TO TELL IT...
...ALL OF IT.
AFTER WE PUT BRIT JR. DOWN FOR THE NIGHT. I THINK WE NEED TO TALK.
NO MORE SECRETS?
NOT EVEN ONE.

BLACK FOREST ASYLUM
48
137
BRI-BRI-BRI-BRI-BRI--
THIS IS THE SECOND TRANSFER THIS WEEK. SLITTER, NOW THIS ONE.
THIS PLACE IS A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY.
BRI-BRI-BRI-BRI... EUCLID.
ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN...

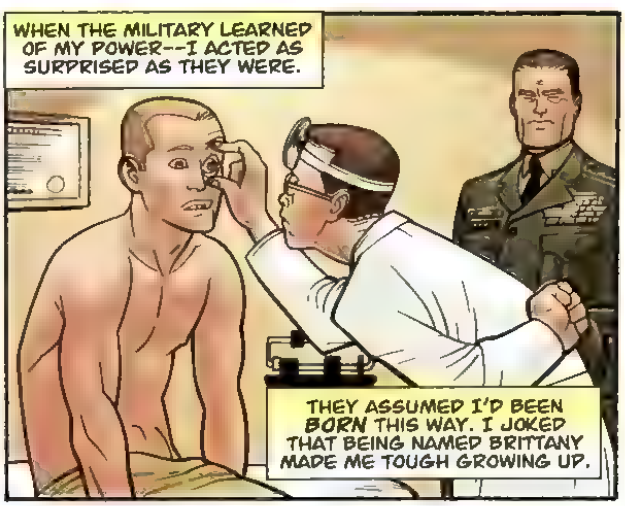

AT LONG LAST--THE SECRET ORIGIN OF BRIT!
HE'S SNOOZING. WENT DOWN RIGHT AWAY, SUCH A GOOD BOY.
YOU HAVE THE MONITOR?
IT'S IN THE KITCHEN.
HE WAS SO CUTE. I ASKED HIM IF HE WANTED TO READ ANOTHER STORY AND HE SAID "DAT 'NUFF" AND THEN MOTIONED FOR THE BED.
ADORABLE...
...LIKE HIS MOTHER.
DON'T DISTRACT ME. WE'RE STILL HAVING OUR TALK.
I LOVE YOU, JESSICA. I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW.
I'M SORRY WE HAVEN'T DONE THIS BEFORE NOW.
THINGS CHANGE. OUR RELATIONSHIP IS DIFFERENT NOW. WHEN WE FIRST STARTED DATING, I WAS FINE WITH AN OPEN RELATIONSHIP. I ENJOYED THE FREEDOM. THAT CHANGED WHEN WE HAD A CHILD TOGETHER.
THE SAME THING HAS HAPPENED WITH YOUR SECRETS. AT FIRST I DIDN'T CARE. NOW... IT EATS AWAY AT ME.
I NEVER MEANT TO KEEP THINGS FROM YOU. THERE ARE JUST CERTAIN THINGS I DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT.
SECRETS. IT WAS PART OF YOUR JOB, I UNDERSTOOD THAT. BUT EVENTUALLY... IT REALLY STARTED TO DRIVE ME CRAZY.
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, BRIT--I DIDN'T LEARN ABOUT BRITNEY UNTIL AFTER WE WERE MARRIED. AND NOW YOU'VE GOT A BROTHER?!
I KNOW...
HE'S OUT THERE--AND HE HATES YOU--HE WANTS TO HURT OUR FAMILY. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT HIM.
WE WERE IN DANGER AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW.
I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD GOTTEN THAT... TWISTED. I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D GET SO DANGEROUS.
GODDAMN IT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW YOU BECAME INVULNERABLE.
WE'LL START THERE.

WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG, THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I WAS INJURED...
...MY MOTHER DIED.
MY FATHER WASN'T THERE. HE RETURNED TO FIND US THAT WAY.
I'VE LIVED A LONG TIME SINCE--AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO FULL OF SORROW.
DAYS... WEEKS PASSED. MY FATHER DIDN'T SPEAK. SOON, MY GRIEF FOR MY MOTHER WAS OVERWHELMED BY CONCERN FOR MY FATHER.
HE DID LITTLE MORE THAN READ... THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE HAD BROKEN HIM, HE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE AGAIN.
IT WAS AN ORDEAL HE VOWED NEVER TO LIVE THROUGH AGAIN.

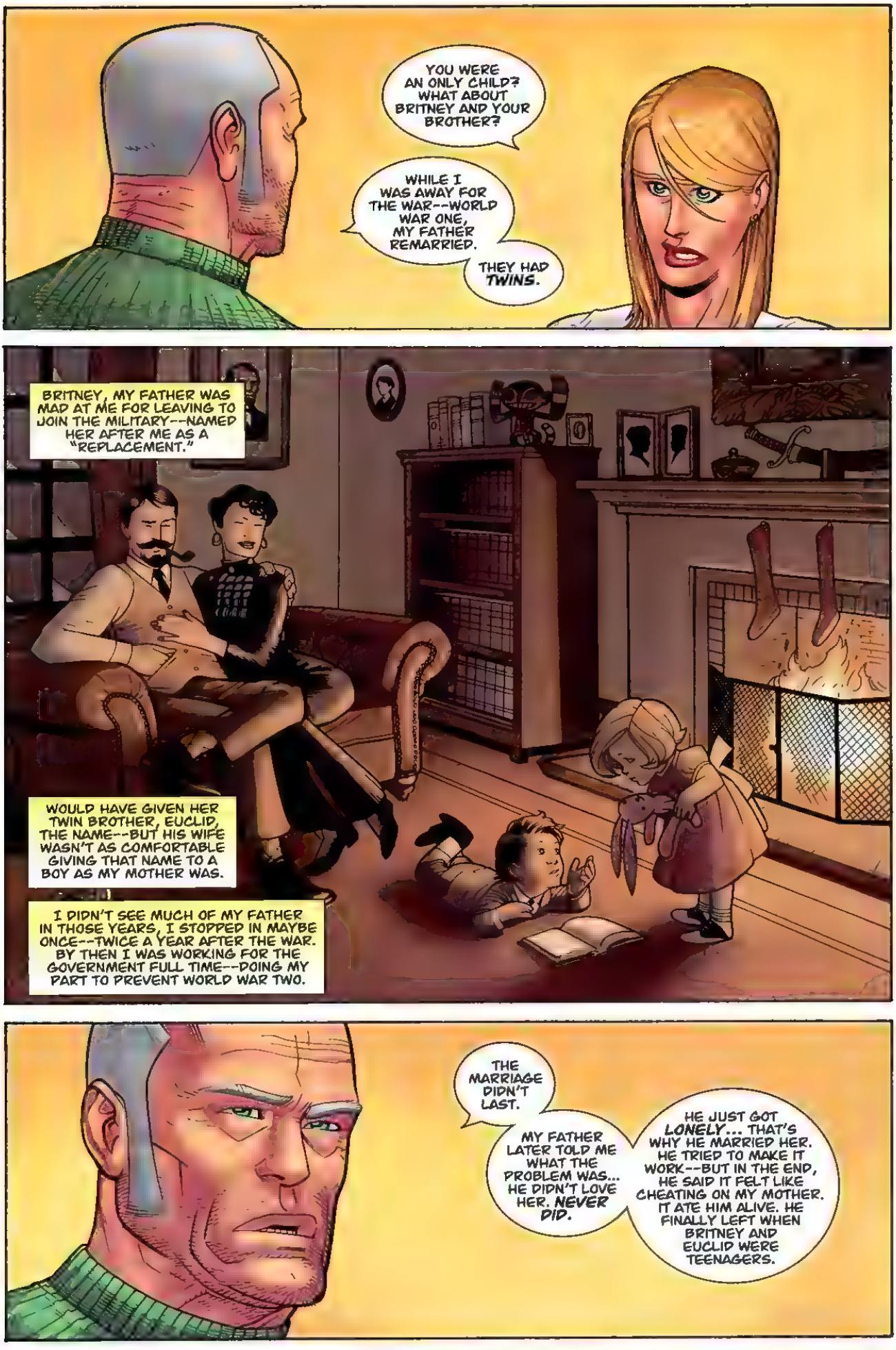
WE TRAVELED MANY YEARS, IN SEARCH OF THINGS I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
THINGS THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
MY FATHER WASN'T A SCIENTIST... HE WAS A GENIUS. WHEN HE SAW A PROBLEM HE WANTED TO FIX, MY FATHER WOULD TEACH HIMSELF HOW TO FIX IT.
HE INVENTED SOLUTIONS.
WITH NO FORMAL TRAINING, HE SET OUT TO DISCOVER A WAY TO MAKE A HUMAN INVULNERABLE--UNABLE TO BE HURT.
UNABLE TO BE KILLED.
WE TRAVELED TO DISTANT LANDS.
AMAZING PLACES.
TERRIFYING PLACES.
AND EVERYWHERE WE WENT, MY FATHER LEARNED MORE--GOT CLOSER TO REACHING HIS GOAL.
FOR NEARLY A DECADE WE TRAVELED THE WORLD, GATHERING MATERIALS USED TO CREATE A SERUM THAT WOULD MAKE A HUMAN, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, SUPER-HUMAN.
ANYONE WHO LEARNED OF HIS QUEST MOCKED HIM. HE WAS DOING SOMETHING THAT MADE LITTLE SENSE TO MOST PEOPLE--SOMETHING THAT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE.
...BUT IT WORKED.

I COULD ALMOST FEEL THE CHANGES IN MY BODY RIGHT AWAY... IT WAS AMAZING.
THEN I GOT REALLY SICK... I ALMOST DIED.
FOR A MOMENT, MY FATHER FEARED HE'D DONE THE UNTHINKABLE-- BUT SOON I GOT BETTER.
IT WAS AMAZING. I WAS IMPERVIOUS TO HARM, BUT THE SERUM OFFERED NO OTHER BENEFITS. STRENGTH, SPEED, THAT WAS ALL NORMAL--JUST INVULNERABLE...
...BUT THAT WAS ENOUGH.
I DID THE ONLY SENSIBLE THING YOU CAN DO WHEN GIVEN SUCH ABILITIES AT THE TIME I WAS LIVING.

I ENLISTED.


WHEN THE MILITARY LEARNED OF MY POWER--I ACTED AS SURPRISED AS THEY WERE.
THEY ASSUMED I'D BEEN *BORN* THIS WAY. I JOKED THAT BEING NAMED BRITTANY MADE ME TOUGH GROWING UP.

MY FATHER INSISTED I NEVER REVEAL MY ABILITIES, LEST THEY BE EXPLOITED.
I DIDN'T LISTEN TO HIM. I JUST WANTED TO DO THE RIGHT THING.


YOU WERE AN ONLY CHILD? WHAT ABOUT BRITNEY AND YOUR BROTHER?
WHILE I WAS AWAY FOR THE WAR--WORLD WAR ONE, MY FATHER REMARRIED.
THEY HAD TWINS.
BRITNEY, MY FATHER WAS MAD AT ME FOR LEAVING TO JOIN THE MILITARY--NAMED HER AFTER ME AS A "REPLACEMENT."
WOULD HAVE GIVEN HER TWIN BROTHER, EUCLID, THE NAME--BUT HIS WIFE WASN'T AS COMFORTABLE GIVING THAT NAME TO A BOY AS MY MOTHER WAS.
I DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF MY FATHER IN THOSE YEARS, I STOPPED IN MAYBE ONCE--TWICE A YEAR AFTER THE WAR. BY THEN I WAS WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT FULL TIME--DOING MY PART TO PREVENT WORLD WAR TWO.
THE MARRIAGE DIDN'T LAST.
MY FATHER LATER TOLD ME WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS... HE DIDN'T LOVE HER. NEVER DID.
HE JUST GOT LONELY... THAT'S WHY HE MARRIED HER. HE TRIED TO MAKE IT WORK--BUT IN THE END, HE SAID IT FELT LIKE CHEATING ON MY MOTHER. IT ATE HIM ALIVE. HE FINALLY LEFT WHEN BRITNEY AND EUCLID WERE TEENAGERS.

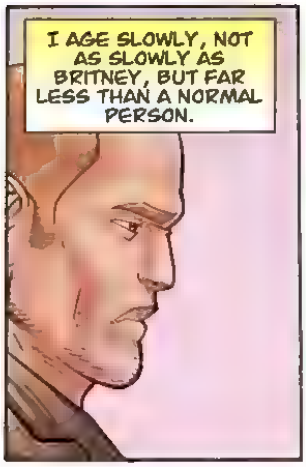
IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME MY FATHER REVEALED A NEWER, PERFECTED VERSION OF THE SERUM.
HE LOVED THEM BOTH--HE WANTED THEM TO BE SAFE.
IT WORKED COMPLETELY ON BRITNEY, MAKING HER INVULNERABLE, BUT ALSO HALTING HER AGING ALMOST COMPLETELY--AND GIVING HER SUPER STRENGTH.
ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MINOR SIDE EFFECTS.
EUCLID WASN'T AS LUCKY.
FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON--THE SERUM HAD NO EFFECT ON HIM.
MY FATHER LOVED ALL OF HIS CHILDREN EQUALLY. HE WANTED ALL OF US TO BE SAFE.
EUCLID DIDN'T SEE THINGS THIS WAY. THE SERUM NOT WORKING ON HIM DROVE HIM AWAY--MADE HIM DISTANT. HE WAS BECOMING A PROBLEM.
UNFORTUNATELY I HAD MY HANDS FULL AT THIS TIME.

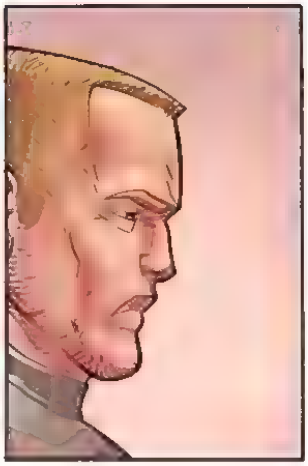
I HAD NO IDEA HOW SERIOUS A CHANGE HE WAS GOING THROUGH.

OVER THE YEARS I'VE THOUGHT-- MAYBE THE SERUM *DID* HAVE AN EFFECT ON EUCLID.
MAYBE IT DROVE HIM CRAZY.

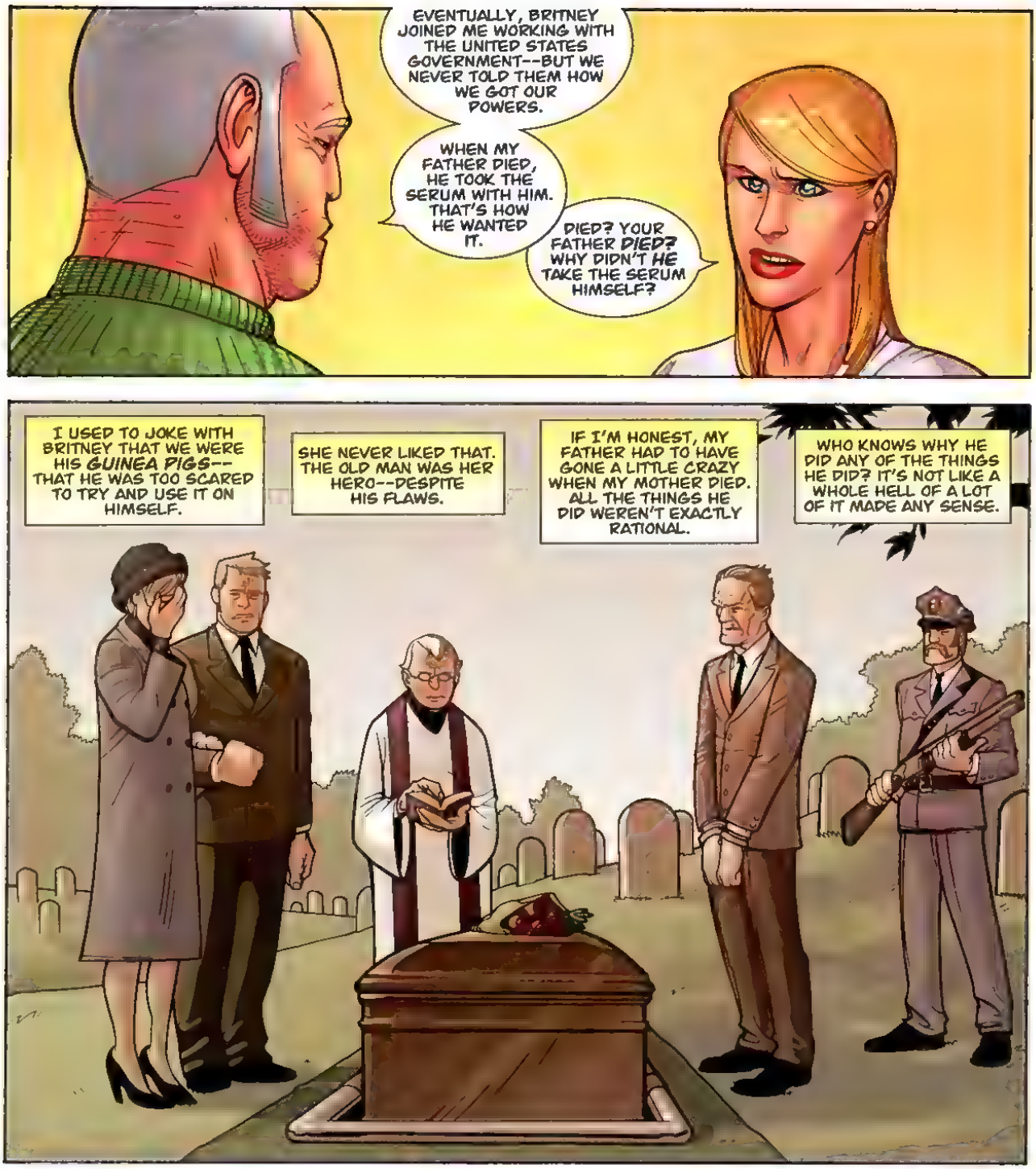
THAT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION FOR ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS HE WOULD EVENTUALLY DO.

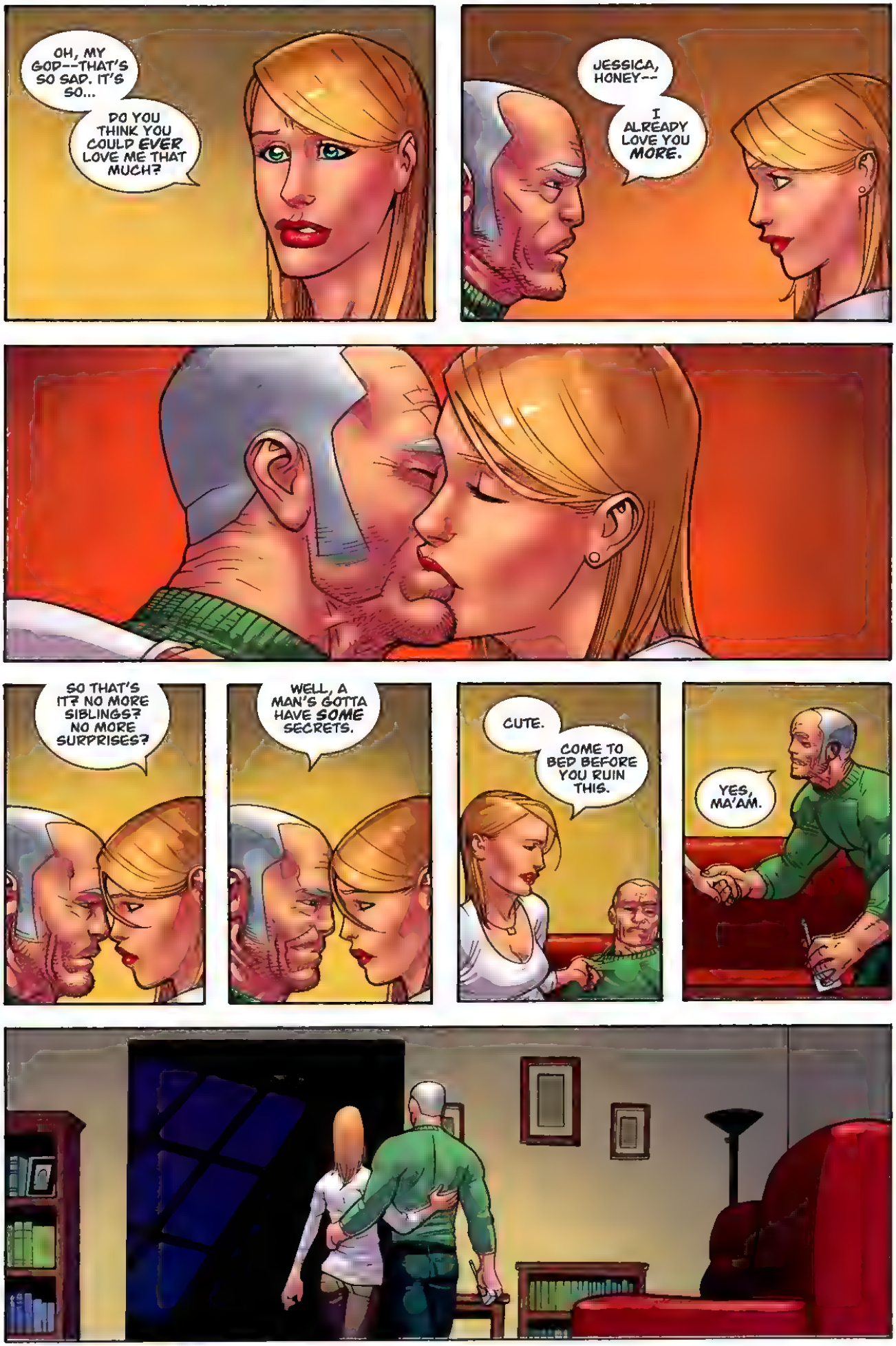
MY SISTER AND I WOULD FIGHT EUCLID *COUNTLESS* TIMES OVER THE YEARS.
HE INHERITED ALL OF OUR FATHER'S GENIUS, BUT *NONE* OF HIS COMPASSION.


I AGE SLOWLY, NOT AS SLOWLY AS BRITNEY, BUT FAR LESS THAN A NORMAL PERSON.



SO I HAVE TO BELIEVE I'D HAVE A FEW DARK HAIRS LEFT IF IT WEREN'T FOR EUCLID.


EVENTUALLY, BRITNEY JOINED ME WORKING WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT--BUT WE NEVER TOLD THEM HOW WE GOT OUR POWERS.
WHEN MY FATHER DIED, HE TOOK THE SERUM WITH HIM. THAT'S HOW HE WANTED IT.
DIED? YOUR FATHER *DIED*? WHY DIDN'T *HE* TAKE THE SERUM HIMSELF?
I USED TO JOKE WITH BRITNEY THAT WE WERE HIS *GUINEA PIGS*-- THAT HE WAS TOO SCARED TO TRY AND USE IT ON HIMSELF.
SHE NEVER LIKED THAT. THE OLD MAN WAS HER HERO--DESPITE HIS FLAWS.
IF I'M HONEST, MY FATHER HAD TO HAVE GONE A LITTLE CRAZY WHEN MY MOTHER DIED. ALL THE THINGS HE DID WEREN'T EXACTLY RATIONAL.
WHO KNOWS WHY HE DID ANY OF THE THINGS HE DID? IT'S NOT LIKE A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT OF IT MADE ANY SENSE.
BUT I LIKE TO THINK HE LOVED HER SO MUCH HE DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE FOREVER WITHOUT HER.
MAYBE DYING WAS WORTH THE SMALL CHANCE THAT HE MIGHT ACTUALLY SEE MY MOTHER AGAIN.


OH, MY GOD--THAT'S SO SAD. IT'S SO...
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EVER LOVE ME THAT MUCH?
JESSICA, HONEY--
I ALREADY LOVE YOU MORE.
SO THAT'S IT? NO MORE SIBLINGS? NO MORE SURPRISES?
WELL, A MAN'S GOTTA HAVE SOME SECRETS.
CUTE.
COME TO BED BEFORE YOU RUIN THIS.
YES, MA'AM.

THE LADIES ROOM

Send your letters to: P.O. Box 1870, Richmond, KY 40476
-or- email: Brit@funkotron.com

Well, as anyone who read this letters column last month knows... this is the final issue of Brit. I hope it ended well. I had an absolute blast coming in and co-writing this issue and finally getting to tell Brit's origin. I hope you dug it.

Brit... oh what fun this guy has been.

Y'know, Brit pretty much ONLY exists because Tony Moore and I submitting The Walking Dead to Image in December of 2002 with hopes of launching it in April of 2003. Image wanted to hold it for Halloween. In hindsight it seems funny, but I didn't want to have 8 or 9 issues of a flop finished and be unable to put them out if that book tanked--so instead of getting really far ahead of schedule on The Walking Dead... we decided to do something else.

That something else was a 48-page one shot called BRIT.

I called it BRIT because guys like Warren Ellis and Mark Millar were doing their insanely sparse, big paneled, quick quipped action books like The Authority and The Authority and I wanted to try to write something in that "British style."

So the original plan was to do basically a one-issue story and expand the action to make it a 48 page book. And well, as ashamed as I am to admit it--when it came time to actually write the thing... I forgot all about that.

When I sat down to write the book--I really just wanted to learn more about this old guy that who the main character of the book. I wanted to know more about his relationship with his hot stripper girlfriend, Jessica... I just really kind of fell in love with the character. So the whole point of the book shifted and I just kind of played around with that guy. The job is a lot of fun--especially when unexpected things happen and make you change your plans... that's when it's at it's best.

Tony did a bang-up job drawing the first one-shot and it was my most profitable comic at that point... it was all very exciting.

Tony and I did the first three issues of The Walking Dead before the first issue came out--and there was a big drop in orders on the second issue--we weren't sure what would happen with the book, honestly... and we sure did enjoy that first Brit book--so along came BRIT: COLD DEATH, done in-between The Walking Dead issues 3 and 4, if I recall correctly.

In that book I fell in love with Donald... who to this day remains one of my favorite characters to write. One day I'll get around to introducing his twin brother Ronald... one day. Anyway, I just love these damn characters.

Tony was unable to draw the third book, BRIT: Red White Black and Blue... so Cliff Rathburn was brought in to draw it--and anyone who reads it notices... Donald kind of takes over that book. The one-shots weren't selling all that great--they never sold as much as the first one, sadly... so I put them on hiatus--but I always planned to get back to doing more Brit eventually...

Then I signed my first Marvel contract.

Marvel was really cool about the whole thing... allowing me to be "exclusive" to them--and getting all the benefits that come from that, while still being allowed to do The Walking Dead and Invincible at Image, uninterrupted... but I couldn't do anything else. No more Brit while I stayed at Marvel.

But I really liked the guy--I wanted to see more, even if it wasn't me doing it. And along came Bruce Brown. I'd known Bruce for a while, he's a great writer who was just having trouble locking down an artist to draw his stories... I thought he was a perfect fit for Brit. I brought Bruce on and we got to work... slowly, in fact, I think it was... crap, FOUR YEARS ago that I first started talking to Bruce about Brit...

A lot of people probably don't know this, but the first issue of Brit took almost a year to get put together... Bruce has been VERY patient with me, God bless him. Oh, and Cliff took his damn time drawing it too--not all my fault. I love you Cliff.

All in all, this series turned out pretty sweet, it expanded Brit's world a bit and let us get to know the guy a little bit better--very cool stuff. I think the whole creative time did a great job. Cliff's issues were great, Nate Bellegarde, who came on with issue 7 and finished us out--even getting to draw the origin tale (inked by Cliff) did his usual stellar work.

And now it's coming to an end. Sorry about that.

I'm not going to dwell on it much, it was fun while it lasted--and we'll be back eventually, in some form. I dig this old man too much to let him sit on a shelf for long.

Before we shut this thing down and move on... I gotta drop some thank yous on our talented creative team(s) who made it all happen.

Big thanks go out to:

Andy Kuhn for doing layouts on issues 2-10 for both Cliff and Nate. Andy's a sweetheart of a man who I've known almost longer than anyone in comics... great guy--and super talented. Do him a favor and talk about 200 of your friends into buying Firebreather--a book that would be my favorite comic if it only came out more often. I love it.

Rus Wooton for lettering every damn issue and doing a great job of it. As I type this I haven't seen any of the lettering for this issue--but I know it'll be great because it's always great. There's a reason Rus letters every book I do now. He's great--and I love him.

FCO for coming in and coloring issues 7-10 before I stole him away to color Invincible AND The Astounding Wolf-Man. FCO's colors are simply awesome. I'm always thrilled when new pages come in--he really made Nate's work sing.

Kanila Tripp for coming in at the absolute last minute and knocking issue 11 out of the park when it became clear FCO would have to leave the book. Good looking out, Kanila. Thanks so much.

Val Staples for coming in and bringing us home by coloring this issue. Val's an old war buddy of mine for the self-publishing days. It's always great when I get to work with him again. Possibly the busiest guy I know--that's for taking the time to make this issue look GREAT! Also, for coloring all three of the original one-shots when we collected them in the full color BRIT: OLD SOLIDER TPB... which you should all run out and get if you don't already have.

Aubrey Sitterson for well, nothing... jerk.

Tony Moore for drawing the first two books and breathing life into the character. For also giving Nate plenty of head shots to swipe in his six issues--you're a real life-saver!

Cliff Rathburn for penciling inking and coloring the first six issues of this series, as well as doing all the art for the third one-shot. I like to say Cliff is the linchpin of my entire operation here--because he's done something on almost every series I've ever done, whether it be penciling, inking or coloring... he's one talented dude.

Nate Bellegarde for giving this series his all--even when I've begged him not to so we don't miss any more shipping dates. Also for putting up with all my fake bullying. He's a good sport, and easy to lift.

And lastly, Bruce Brown, for taking my guy... writing a bunch of stories, and putting up with me being crazy during the whole process. It's like he was babysitting one of my children, and thankfully, I've come to pick him up and the house isn't on fire and the kid still has all his fingers and toes. Thanks Bruce.

Oh, and you guys... especially you who stuck around for this issue. You guys are the best... I love you all.

We'll see you all again, sooner than you'd think.

-Robert Kirkman

I leave you with a stellar pin-up by talented artist and friend of the family Evan Bryce. Take us home, Bryce!!

QUIT BEING A PERU AND MOVE IT ALREADY DONALD!
EVIAN

the iWORD

DON'T LOOK BACK

It seems like mere moments ago that Image Comics was announced whilst 1992 was still yawning and stretching, and now here we are (snaps fingers) 17 years later. To put it all in perspective, consider this: When Image was formed, Robert Kirkman was a teenager eagerly anticipating the first issues of YOUNGBLOOD, SPAWN and SAVAGE DRAGON, now he's a proud father and the first non-founder ever invited to become a partner in Image. Talk about your ch-ch-ch-changes.

2009, then.

It's always easy to cast an eye to the rearview mirror at the beginning of a new year, but as has ever been the case at Image, we're all about what's coming next. For better or worse, Image has never sat in the same place for too long. Image '09 is virtually unrecognizable from Image '92 or Image '97 or '01 or whenever, and we couldn't be more thrilled about that. There are new projects aplenty on the horizon and even when we're turning our attention to our older characters, as we'll be doing with the upcoming IMAGE UNITED, we're doing so with an eye to the future.

Part of the reason Image always looks so different from one year to the next -- and even month to month, in some cases -- is that the creators we work with determine what we're going to be. No two writers or artists are alike and everyone comes to Image with different influences and inspirations. That's how we get something as unique and heartfelt as Joe Kelly's I KILL GIANTS or something as adventurous as the titles we've published by creators like Jonathan Hickman and Matt Fraction. It's the interests of the people we work with set the tone any given year.

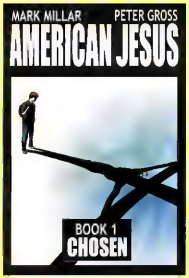
And this year we have some great new additions to our publishing slate. Some are doing work at Image -- or in comics -- for the first time, others are familiar names looking to branch out and do something a little bit different from his or her last project. No matter who the creators are or what form their projects takes, though, this year promises to be as interesting as any since we started out and we can't wait to hear what you think!

ericstephenson

www.imagecomics.com

THIS IS A SOUVENIR: THE SONGS OF SPEARMINT & SHIRLEY LEE OGN

In the tradition of Image's bestselling COMIC BOOK TATTOO and PUT THE BOOK BACK ON THE SHELF comes THIS IS A SOUVENIR, an all-new anthology showcasing the very best creators comics has to offer reinterpreting the popular music of indie Britpop band, Spearmint! Features over two hundred pages of stories from such names as CHYNNA CLUGSTON-FLORES, JAMIE McKELVIE, JAMIE S. RICH, SCOTT MILLS, KIERON GILLEN, RICH JOHNSTON, SALGOOD SAM and many more!



AMERICAN JESUS VOL. 1: CHOSEN TP

From the writer of WAR HEROES, KICK ASS and the Universal hit, WANTED! It's the next MARK MILLAR graphic novel set to become a feature film! AMERICAN JESUS, VOL. 1: CHOSEN follows a twelve-year-old boy who suddenly discovers he's the returned Jesus Christ. He can turn water into wine, make the crippled walk and perhaps even raise the dead. How will he deal with the destiny to lead the world in a conflict thousands of years in the making?

DAWN, VOL. 1: LUCIFER'S HALO 20th ANNIVERSARY TP

Dawn, the Goddess of birth and rebirth, helps Darrian, a young warrior, find his place in a post apocalyptic New York. She gives him Lucifer's Halo, and the forces of heaven and Hell descend upon him to take it back. Through blood & tears, Dawn leads Darrian to his destiny as the incarnation of her lover, the Horned God. Collects issues #1-6.

PAX ROMANA TP

From the mind of comic book innovator Jonathan Hickman, comes the exhilarating time-traveling epic: PAX ROMANA. The creator of THE NIGHTLY NEWS brings his unique sensibility to science fiction and the result is a visually stunning look at a new history of the world. PAX ROMANA tells the tale of 5000 men sent on an impossible mission to change the past and save the future. Collects issues #1-4.

http://www.grantbond.com/

If you're not familiar with Grant Bond -- artist of Shadowlines Archibeki series, Popgun Vol 2, and IDW's movie prequel IGOR -- you should be! Visit his site where you'll find galleries, videos, a message board, an online store and free stuff to download!

JANUARY COMICS

- ARCHIBALD CHASES THE DRAGON
- THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #3
- BACK TO BROOKLYN #3 (OF 5)
- BOMB QUEEN #4 (OF 4)
- BRIT #12
- CHARLATAN
- CYBLADE #4
- THE DARKNESS #78
- DEAD AHEAD #2 (OF 3)
- DYNAMO 5 #47
- ELEPHANTMEN #4
- FIREBREATHER #4
- FOUR EYES #2
- GEMINI #4 (OF 5)
- GODLAND #28
- GOLLY! #4
- GUERILLAS #4 (OF 6)
- HEATHENTOWN OGN
- HECTOR PLASM: TOTENTANZ
- I HATE GALLANT GIRL #3 (OF 3)
- I KILL GIANTS #7 (OF 7)
- IMPALER #2
- INVINCIBLE #58
- JACK STAFF #20
- MADMAN ATOMIC COMICS #11
- NOBLE CAUSES #29
- PHONOGRAM 2: THE SINGLES CLUB #1 (OF 4)
- PROOF #16
- A RED MASS FOR MARS #4 (OF 4)
- SAVAGE #4 (OF 4)
- SAVAGE DRAGON #144
- SPAWN #188
- THE SWORD #15
- VELOCITY #3
- THE WALKING DEAD #67
- WITCHBLADE #139
- YOUNGBLOOD #7
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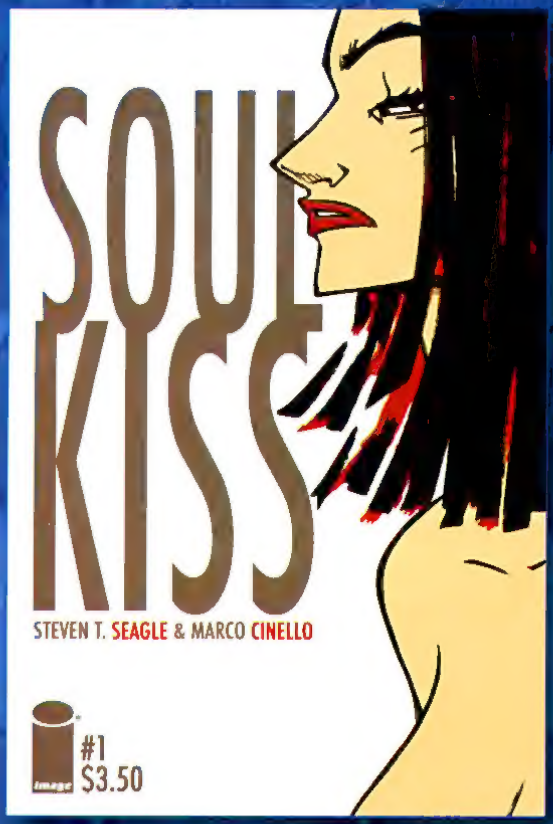
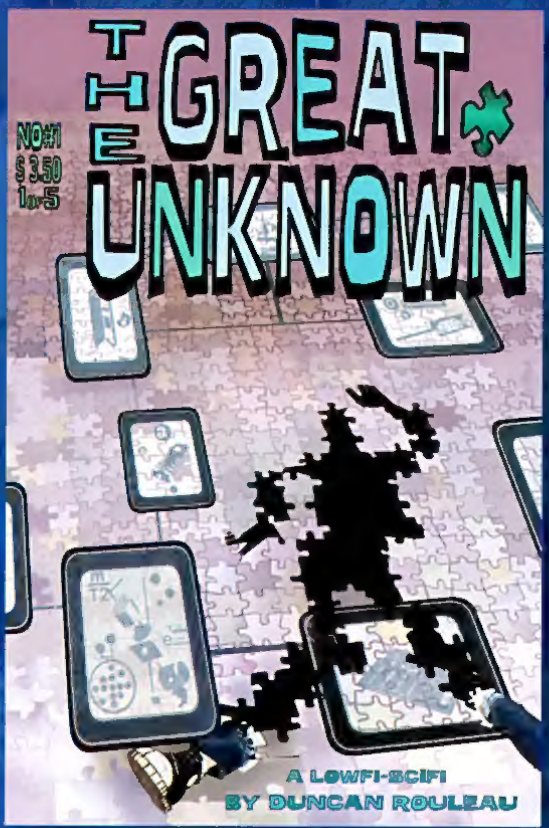
COMING SOON FROM MAN OF ACTION STUDIOS!





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CAPTAIN JOHN

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